

Extended! Get 35% OFF & Start speaking Japanese with the Monster Sale. Get 35% Off and unlock our Ja...[Read More](#)

Lesson Library > Absolute Beginner Season 2 > Visiting a Japanese Home

Lesson 17

Sidebar

▶

Visiting a Japanese Home

Learn how to use Japanese verbs in their non-past affirmative and interrogative forms

Mark Complete

Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners

Absolute Beginner Season 2

Dialogue

Vocabulary

Lesson Notes

Grammar

Lesson Transcript

Comments

▶

Dialogue - Japanese

Hide

Kanji

English

Rōmaji

All

(At an entrance)

A: いらっしゃい。

B: おじゃまします。

C: おひさしぶり です。

D: (goo gaa)

B: あ、くつをぬぎますか。

E: はい。スリッパ、どうぞ。

B: サラ、くつをぬぎますよ。

D: (goo gaa)

▶

Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

どうぞ [どうぞ]

go ahead, here you are

はい、どうぞ。

Here you go.

スリッパ [すりっぱ]

slippers

スリッパ、どうぞ。

Here you go, some slippers.

おじゃまします [おじゃまします]

excuse me for disturbing (interrupting) you

おじゃまします。

Excuse me for disturbing you.

ぬぎます [ぬぎます]

to take off;V1

くつをぬぎます。

I take off my shoes.

くつ [くつ]

shoes, footwear

あそこにわたしのくつがあります。

There are my shoes over there.

いらっしゃい [いらっしゃい]

Welcome (to..)

ちえみさん、いらっしゃい。

Chiemimi, welcome.

Add to Flashcard Deck

Add to Word Bank

Slideshow

Take Quiz

Lesson Notes

Hide

Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about Doing Actions to Objects.

くつをぬぎますよ。

Kutsu o nugimasu yo.

"We're taking our shoes off."

In this lesson, you'll learn how to make more complex sentences that describe actions performed on objects, such as "take your shoes off" or "eat some rice."

"I eat rice."

In English, the object, "rice," or ごはん (gohan) comes after the verb "eat." But in Japanese, the verb comes last. So instead of saying "I eat rice," you're literally saying "I rice eat."

This is so easy: all you have to do is remember the basic structure, [person] wa [verb-masu].

Then, just insert the object, like ごはん (gohan), meaning "rice," plus を (o) between the wa and the verb.

Formation

[Person] wa [thing] o [verb-masu] → "[Person] [verb] [thing]"

| JAPANESE | ROMANIZATION | "ENGLISH" | JAPANESE | ROMANIZATION | "ENGLISH" |
|----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| たべます | tabemasu | "eat" | にくをたべます | niku o tabemasu | "eat meat" |
| のみます | nomimasu | "drink" | おさけをのみます | o-sake o nomimasu | "drink alcohol" |
| かいます | kaimasu | "buy" | くつをかいます | kutsu o kaimasu | "buy shoes" |
| みます | mimasu | "see" | テレビをみます | terebi o mimasu | "watch TV" |
| ききます | kikimasu | "hear" | おんがくをききます | ongaku o kikimasu | "listen to music" |

"Do you play tennis?"

To make the above kind of sentence into a question and ask "Does [person] [verb] [thing]?" there is no change in the sentence structure whatsoever: just add the "question mark" ka on the end!

Formation

[Person] wa [thing] o [verb-masu] ka → "Does [person] [verb] [thing]?"

* As ever, the answer to this question in Japanese is nearly always very short: often just the verb itself, with everything else understood by context.

Sample Sentences

1. ともゆきさんはおさけをのみますか。

はい、のみます。

A: Tomoyuki-san wa o-sake o nomimasu ka.

B: Hai, nomimasu.

A: "Do you drink [alcohol], Tomoyuki?"

B: "Yes, I do."

1. まいにち、ぼくはテニスをします。たなかさんはスポーツをしますか。

はい。わたしはバドミントンします。

A: Mainichi boku wa tennis wo shimasu. Tanaka-san wa supōtsu o shimasu ka.

B: Ee. Watashi wa badominton o shimasu.

A: "I play tennis every day. Do you play any sports, Ms. Tanaka?"

B: "Yes. I play badminton."

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

• ojamashimasu. → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 10

• dōzo → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 21

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ いらっしゃい (irasshai)

This means "welcome." You remember that in Lesson 15 we introduced the word よこそ (yōkoso), which we also translate as "welcome." Generally, the difference between the two is that yōkoso has a more "expansive" feel (as in "Welcome to Japan!" or "Welcome to the pirate island!" or "Welcome to Disneyland!"), while irasshai is a gentler, more specific welcome ("Welcome to my home"). The formal form, irasshaimase, is a set greeting that we use when a customer enters a store, restaurant, bar, etc.

★ -よ (-yo)

When you add yo to the end of a sentence, it can do two things:

1) Add emphasis to a piece of information or indicate that you're telling the speaker a new piece of information

2) Give emphasis or strength to a command (e.g., oshiete yo, "(come on), tell me!")

As an example of the first usage, in the dialogue, Taylor said Sara, kutsu o nugimasu yo, meaning "Sara, we're taking our shoes off." He used yo to emphasize the piece of information (that they were to take off their shoes), as Sara, being a baby, might not know that you have to take your shoes off before going into a house in Japan.

*Note: We often use this -masu yo when giving indirect commands to children.

Cultural Insights

What to Do with Your Shoes in Japan

As many of you probably know, it is a strict rule of Japanese etiquette to take off one's outdoor shoes before entering a private residence. Not to do so when entering someone's home would be considered incredibly rude and offensive, not to mention extremely dirty and unhygienic. In short, if you only remember one rule when you go to Japan, it's this one! ;)

The origins of this custom were both to avoid tracking dirt in from the outdoors and to preserve the delicate (and expensive) tatami mats that were used for flooring in traditional Japanese houses and that would have been quickly ruined by the "wooden-soled sandals" (geta) that Japanese people used to wear.

In any given private residence in Japan, no matter how tiny, there will be an "entranceway" (called the げんかん (genkan)), where you remove your shoes. You then place them in a small "cupboard" (called a げたばこ (geta-bako), literally "geta box," after the traditional wooden sandal that used to be worn outdoors). It is desirable to most Japanese that the genkan be one step lower than the rest of the house/apartment, so you actually have to step up on to the floor of the house proper, but sometimes (in cheaper/smaller apartments, for example) there is only a dividing line where the genkan ends and the flooring begins. It is also considered good manners to provide guests with slippers to wear in the house and to keep a stock of these separate from the family's slippers.

Download as PDF

Grammar

Hide

Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

動詞の活用 (マス形) doushi no katsuyou (masu form)

Conjugation of verbs (masu form)

Introduced

よ yo

you know

Introduced

Lesson Transcript

Show

GET 35% OFF

EXTENDED! ENDS 10/29/2023

CLICK HERE

Comments

Show

JapanesePod101.com

LEARN JAPANESE

ABOUT US

HELP CENTER

Dashboard

Lesson Library

Flashcards

Vocabulary Lists

Japanese Resources

My Teacher

Mobile App

Our Method

Our Story

Meet the Team

What People Say

Plans & Pricing

In the News

Languages We Teach

Schools & Businesses

Blogs

Affiliate Program

Help Center & FAQ

Getting Started

Billing and Subscriptions

My Account

Using the Platform

Teaching Methodology

Learning With a Teacher

Contact Us

UPGRADE TODAY

GET FLUENT FASTER

FOLLOW US

Follow 1M

innovativeLANGUAGE.COM

COPYRIGHT © 2023 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. JAPANESEPOD101.COM PRIVACY POLICY | TERMS OF USE.